

**Fiscal Services Division**  
**Legislative Services Agency**  
**Fiscal Note**

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SF 2384 - Truancy (LSB 6595 SV)

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Fiscal Note Version - New

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**Description**

Senate File 2384 provides that a child age 10 or older who is truant and refuses to participate in mediation, or violates a truancy mediation agreement, commits a delinquent act. The Bill also provides that a child cannot be placed in detention for truancy.

**Assumptions**

1. There were 1,221 students age 10-16 who were referred to a truancy officer during the 2004-2005 school year. Of these, it is unknown how many were referred to Juvenile Court.
2. The number of additional delinquency filings that will occur is unknown, and it is also unknown how many additional children will be referred for mediation under the Bill.
3. The number of children who will refuse to participate in mediation or violate a mediation agreement is unknown.
4. The average court cost for delinquencies is \$550 per case, which includes time attributable to judges, support staff, juvenile court officers, and clerk staff.

**Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact of SF 2384 cannot be determined. The impact to the Judicial Branch may be significant if delinquency filings increase and a high number of children refuse to participate or violate a mediation agreement. The table below outlines the potential annual costs for the Judicial Branch using variations for the number of children who may not participate in a mediation agreement.

<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Court Cost</b>
100	\$ 55,000
200	\$ 110,000
300	\$ 165,000
400	\$ 220,000
500	\$ 275,000

**Sources**

Department of Education

Department of Human Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Department of Human Services

Judicial Branch

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 15, 2006

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The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.

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